

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A power mower comprising:

a cutting deck;

at least one drive wheel;

5 an engine for driving at least one cutting blade;

a deck lift system for selectively raising and lowering the cutting deck, said deck lift system including:

a deck lift lever which when pulled causes a laterally oriented bar and a support to rotate about a common axis defined by an axis of said bar in order to lift

10 said cutting deck;

a pivotal latch pivotally coupled to said support at a latch pivot axis;

a spring for biasing said pivotal latch relative to said support;

wherein said spring biases said pivotal latch in a first direction when a longitudinal axis of said spring is on a first side of said latch pivot axis, and said spring biases said pivotal latch in a second direction when the longitudinal axis of said spring is on a second different side of said latch pivot axis; and

wherein said longitudinal axis of said spring is switched from the first side of said latch pivot axis to the second different side of said latch pivot axis during raising of said cutting deck as said deck lift lever is pulled.

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2. The power mower of claim 1, wherein said deck lift system further includes a first projection and a second projection protruding from a surface of said support, and wherein when said spring is on the first side of said latch pivot axis said spring biases said pivotal latch in the first direction toward the first projection, and when said spring is on the second different side of said latch pivot axis said spring biases said pivotal latch in the second direction away from the first projection and toward the second projection.

3. The power mower of claim 2, wherein pulling of the lever causes first, second, third, and fourth deck lift pull rods to moves toward a rear of the mower which in turn causes respective first, second, third and fourth deck lift arms to rotate and cause said cutting deck to be raised at four different locations.

4. The power mower of claim 1, further comprising a foot platform that is at least partially located between said one drive wheel and another drive wheel, these drive wheels being first and second rear drive wheels, respectively.

5. The power mower of claim 4, wherein the mower is a zero radius turning mower wherein the first and second drive wheels are each independently driveable in forward and reverse directions so as to enable the mower to make zero radius turns about a vertical turning axis.

6. The power mower of claim 5, wherein said vertical turning axis intersects said foot platform.

7. The power mower of claim 5, further comprising a seat that is selectively deployable, so that an operator may operate the mower either when standing on the foot platform or while sitting on the seat.

8. The power mower of claim 1, wherein said longitudinal axis of said spring:

5 (a) is switched from the first side of said latch pivot axis to the second different side of said latch pivot axis during raising of said cutting deck as said deck lift lever is pulled, and (b) is switched back from the second side of said latch pivot axis to the first side of the latch pivot axis during lowering of said cutting deck as said deck lift lever moves in a downward and/or forward direction in which the lever is biased by at least weight of said
10 cutting deck.

9. A power mower including a deck lift system, wherein the deck lift system for raising and lowering at least a cutting deck of the mower, the deck lift system comprising:

a deck lift lever for selectively raising and lowering the cutting deck;

15 a pivoting latch for selectively engaging a first projection or bolt in order to maintain the cutting deck at a height;

a spring coupled to the pivoting latch in a manner such that the spring biases the pivoting latch in a first direction toward the first projection or bolt when a longitudinal axis of said spring is on a first side of a pivot axis of the latch, and the spring biases the
20 pivoting latch in a second direction away from the first projection or bolt when the

longitudinal axis of the spring is at least partially on a second side of the pivot axis of the latch; and

wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring is switched from the first side of the pivot axis of the latch to the second side of the pivot axis of the latch during raising of the cutting deck as the deck lift lever is moved so that as the deck lift lever is moved the latch is first biased by the spring toward the first projection or bolt and is thereafter biased away from the first projection or bolt when the longitudinal axis of the spring is switched to the first side of the pivot axis of the latch.

10. The power mower of claim 9, wherein the longitudinal axis of the spring is switched back from the second side of the pivot axis of the latch to the first side of the pivot axis of the latch during lowering of the cutting deck.

11. The power mower of claim 9, wherein the deck lift system further comprises:

a second projection or bolt; and

wherein when the spring is on the first side of the pivot axis the spring biases the latch in the first direction toward the first projection or bolt so that a hook of the latch can latch onto the first projection or bolt, and when the spring is on the second side of the pivot axis the spring biases the latch in the second direction away from the first projection or bolt and toward the second projection or bolt so that the latch contacts the second projection or bolt.

12. The power mower of claim 11, wherein pulling of the lever causes first, second, third, and fourth deck lift pull rods to move toward a rear of the mower which in turn causes respective first, second, third and fourth deck lift arms to rotate and cause the cutting deck to be raised at four different locations.

5 13. A power mower including a deck lift system, the deck lift system of the power mower comprising:

a deck lift lever for selectively raising and lowering the cutting deck; and

wherein pulling of the lever causes an elongated horizontally aligned bar to rotate which in turn causes first, second, third, and fourth elongated deck lift pull rods to move
10 toward a rear of the mower which in turn causes respective first, second, third and fourth deck lift arms to rotate and cause the cutting deck to be raised at at least four different locations.

14. The power mower of claim 13, wherein the mower comprises a foot platform that is at least partially located between first and second rear drive wheels.

15 15. The power mower of claim 14, wherein the mower is a zero radius turning mower wherein the first and second rear drive wheels are each independently driveable in forward and reverse directions so as to enable the mower to make zero radius turns about a vertical turning axis.